

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Paul Donovan on March 27, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 10-20 have been canceled.

In addition to the above authorized amendment, the abstract has been amended to read as follows:

Abstract

A sealing element is formed from a desirably shaped body of a sealant material formulated from a first polymer, ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA), in a concentration of about 25 percent to about 30 percent, a calcium carbonate inert filler material in a concentration of about 25 percent to about 30 percent, a second ethylene polymer other than EVA in a concentration of about 20 to about 35 percent, and a hydrocarbon resin in a concentration of about 10 percent to about 15 percent. The sealant further comprising an epoxy resin in a concentration of about 2 to about 5 percent and an activator in a concentration of about less than one percent of the sealant. The sealant material, when positioned about a first component is overmolded with a material forming a second component. The sealant material, which is heat activated, forms a seal between the first and second components.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest prior art fails to teach or suggest a sealant consisting of the claimed components in the recited concentrations. The closest prior art Hanley '260 teaches an heat-activated, expandable sealant composition comprising about 10 to about 60wt% a grafted-anhydride ethylene polymer, about 1 to about 10 wt% of an epoxide terminated polymer, about 1 to about 50wt% of a filler polymer which is preferably ethylene-vinyl acetate, about 1 to about 15wt% of a rubber-like constituent including ethylene copolymers, from about 1 to about 15wt% of a processing aid which is preferably polyethylene wax, about 1 to about 15wt% of a hydrocarbon tackifier, about 1 to about 20wt% of a filler which is preferably calcium carbonate, and a blowing agent.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Monique R. Jackson whose telephone number is 571-272-1508. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Thursdays, 10:00AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on 571-272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Monique R Jackson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794
March 29, 2008